

**EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Claims 5, 6 and 29 and 30 were cancelled.

In claim 1

line 14, "microorganisms of the genus *Lactobacillus*" was replaced with  
--the group consisting of the strains *L. paracasei* DSM 15755, *L. paracasei* DSM 15751, *L. delbrueckii* DSM 15754, *L. sakei* DSM 15753 and *L. otis* DSM 15752--.

In claim 28,

line 10, "and *Lactococcus*" was deleted;

line 18, after enzyme was added

--wherein said microorganism is selected from the group consisting of the strains *L. paracasei* DSM 15755, *L. paracasei* DSM 15751, *L. delbrueckii* DSM 15754, *L. sakei* DSM 15753 and *L. otis* DSM 15752--.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with \*\*\* on \*\*\*.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Irene Marx whose telephone number is (571) 272-0919. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (6:30-3:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Wityshyn can be reached on 571-272-0926. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).